

State Representative

Judy Clibborn

41st Legislative District

2004 Legislative Report and Survey

Dear Friends,

The New Year means a fresh beginning for the Legislature, as we reconvene in Olympia to carry on the state's business in the 2004 Legislative Session.

This is a short session – only 60 days – but there's a lot of work to do, and a lot of bills that can greatly affect our quality of life for years to come.

Most importantly we must work on building a strong economy and creating good-paying jobs.

We need to build on the success of last year in securing jobs for our workers by investing in education, and improving accessibility and affordability of health care.

I was pleased to see Boeing recognize the great strides forward our state has made and decide to build its 7E7 Dreamliner jet here. Last session we spent a great deal of time and effort creating the best business climate possible for Boeing.

That spirit of cooperation and creativity within the Legislature and among our fellow citizens helped land that project. I expect to see that same spirit this session, as we continue down the path towards economic recovery.

Sincerely,



Rep. Judy Clibborn



Keeping in touch

Rep. Judy Clibborn

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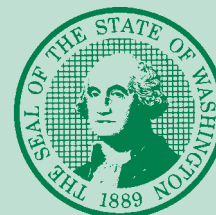
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Committees:

Health Care
Local Government
Transportation



Let's Talk

at the 41st
Legislative District
Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, Feb. 21st

• 9:30 - 11:00

Newcastle City Hall, 13020 SE 72nd Place
(425) 649-4444

• 1:00 - 2:30

Bellevue City Hall, 11511 Main Street
(425) 452-6800

• 3:30 - 5:00

Mercer Island City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street
(206) 236-5300

Education – An Investment in our Future

Finding jobs won't matter unless we have a world-class education system for our children. Students in Washington should have the best schools and the best teachers.

This year's high school freshmen will be the first class required to pass the state's standards test, the WASL. It is critical to make sure they have the tools to pass that test. I do not want to see any children drop out or fail to achieve our standards. This can only be done by fully funding our schools in this session's supplemental budget, as well providing a

seamless system from pre-school through college.

The time has also come to allow our schools to pass levies with a simple majority. Currently, a school levy can



fail even when it receives 59 percent of the vote from local citizens. That's not right. We shouldn't make it any harder for our schools to receive the support they need.

In addition, I am supporting an increase in Higher Education funding, which will ensure that the best jobs stay in our state. By increasing higher education funding, we'll make sure that students seeking degrees have access to our universities and are able to afford it. These programs will help people get 21st century jobs.

Stopping the Outsourcing Epidemic

Here in Washington, our economy relies on global trade much more than most other states. Consequently, our businesses must compete not only with other Americans, but also with other countries. Some feel the urge to keep costs low by outsourcing their work to countries where wages are lower and there are no protections or benefits for workers.

This "race to the bottom" as it's called isn't just isolated to blue-collar, manufacturing jobs. Almost every industry is now susceptible to loss overseas, from service centers to the high-skilled computer programming and biotech positions that were the driving force behind our region's economic boom of the 90s.

In order to keep Corporate America from becoming Corporate India or China or any other country for that matter, I am supporting a package of bills that will prohibit our state government from contracting jobs out overseas.

State contracts — public works, personal services, information services, and highway design and construction — should be given to citizens of the United States and persons authorized to work in the United States.

Money spent here tends to stay here. We are encouraged to buy locally and we must do what we can to hire locally as well. That means providing a skilled homegrown workforce, a business-friendly climate, and the incentive to keep jobs here in Washington.



Real Answers for Patients and Doctors

To fix the economy, part of the solution must be controlling the skyrocketing costs of health care. A vital part of that is making sure patients are safe, and doctors can afford to offer their services throughout the state. A one-size-fits-all solution doesn't work here - it will take a concerted effort from all parties involved to control costs and provide protection to patients.

I am working with my colleagues in the House to solve the puzzle of lowering medical malpractice insurance premiums while protecting patient safety. Simply capping jury awards will not solve the problem of skyrocketing insurance premiums for our doctors. We need solutions that address all of the reasons why these rates are increasing. That is why I support a package of reforms that will give patients and doctors both short- and long-term solutions to the crisis in liability insurance.

The proposal would achieve three things: Increase patient safety; assure that physicians and hospitals can get the insurance they need while stabilizing their insurance rates; and improve our civil justice system while protecting the constitutional rights of patients.

For more information on the details of the House Democrat's Med Mal Plan, visit: <http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/issues/health/medmalbrief.asp>



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What do you think?

I'd like to hear from you.



Jobs

Do you know anyone who's lost their job?
_____ Yes _____ No

Are you worried about losing your job or your health coverage?
_____ Yes _____ No

What should we do to create jobs?
Better training and retraining for workers
_____ Yes _____ No

Provide tax incentives to create family-wage jobs
_____ Yes _____ No

Prevent outsourcing of Washington State jobs
_____ Yes _____ No

Health care

Do you have health coverage?
_____ Yes _____ No

Do you know anyone who has trouble paying for their prescription medicine?
_____ Yes _____ No

Do you feel that Washington State citizens should have the right to purchase needed prescription drugs from Canada?
_____ Yes _____ No

Education

Do you have children or grandchildren in our public schools?
_____ Yes _____ No

Are you worried about your children or grandchildren getting into college, or having the money to pay for tuition?
_____ Yes _____ No

Are these reforms a good idea?
Prevent teacher strikes with binding arbitration
_____ Yes _____ No

Divert taxpayer money from public schools to charter schools
_____ Yes _____ No

Taxes

Do you think our tax system is fair to the middle class and working families?
_____ Yes _____ No

What reforms do you support?
Cut taxes and the services they pay for
_____ Yes _____ No

Reduce sales tax, property tax and implement an income tax
_____ Yes _____ No

The State Primary

Which system do you support?

☐ **Modified Blanket Primary, Top Two Go To General Election:**
Voters do not declare their party affiliation when they register to vote, and are permitted to vote for one candidate for each partisan office and are not restricted to voting for candidates from only one major party. The choice each voter makes is not made public record. For each partisan office, the two candidates who receive the most votes appear on the general election ballot, regardless of party affiliation. This approach is used by Louisiana only.

☐ **Open Primary, Private Declaration of Party Affiliation:**
Voters are not required to declare their party affiliation until they vote, receiving one ballot for the major party they choose. The choice they make as to which party's ballot they select is not made public. This model is used in Montana.

☐ **Do Nothing:** All candidates would appear on the general election ballot similar to the situation in the recent California recall election

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PO Box 40600

Rep. Judy Clibborn



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Improving Health Care Accessibility

The cost of health care in our country is at alarming levels, forcing many to choose between food or heat or the prescriptions and care we need. For others, it isn't even a matter of choice – health care is just not an option, and that is a terrible thing.

Part of our economic recovery will rely on the availability and affordability of health care. It does us no good to increase funding to education if kids are sick, abused, or hungry. We cannot expect them to be successful in school and in life under those conditions.

Some seem to think that when we limit the amount of people on the Basic Health Plan or when we cap the number of individuals who can receive health insurance we are saving money. However, that's just not the case. That only forces us to practice emergency medicine, which can be much more expensive than practicing preventative medicine. That means restoring the cuts made to the Basic Health Plan last year and increasing the amount of low-income families that can receive health care. We cannot climb our way out



of recession by leaving some behind.

Finally, we will continue to work on controlling the outrageous cost of prescription drugs. Making prescription drugs more affordable is

critical to improving the quality of care. After years of fighting, we scored a major victory for our families and seniors when we passed a prescription drug reform bill. But we need to build on that success and keep working to improve access to affordable health care for all our citizens.

I will be working on ensuring low-cost prescription drugs for our citizens by allowing their purchase from Canada for a fraction of what they would cost here in the United States. There is no reason why Americans should pay more for the same drug than citizens in any other country are. It will be an uphill battle against a very powerful pharmaceutical lobby, but I believe the fleecing of America's seniors and health care consumers by these hugely profitable companies must end.



Looking for discounts on prescription drugs? A new toll-free phone number may be able to help.

The Washington State Legislature created the Pharmacy Connections program to help senior citizens and others take advantage of prescription-drug discounts they may be eligible to receive.

The Senior Information and Pharmacy Connections Line is available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. **Call 1-888-435-3377**

Further information about the Pharmacy Connections program and Washington State's prescription-drug reforms can be found at: www.rx.wa.gov.

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